

The Havoc Wrought in English Hearts

By Edna May and Her "Bridesmaids."

CRICHTON

Three
Nobles.
Three
Husbands.

CAVENDISH

Three
Beauties.
Three
Divorces.

HEADFORT

MABEL

POWER

EDNA

MAY

PHYLLIS

RANKIN

AMERICAN actresses have wrought havoc with the hearts of the British aristocracy.

The latest news is that Mabel Power, of "The Belle of New York" Company, is likely to become Lady Crichton. Lord Crichton, the eldest son of the Earl of Erne and an officer of the Horse Guards, is devoted to her. Her husband, Mr. Loeb, of New York, is seeking a divorce.

Edna May, of the same company, has fascinated a young man named Cavendish, a near relative of the Duke of Devonshire, and possibly his heir. She is seeking a divorce from her American husband in order, it is said, that she may some day become Duchess of Devonshire.

Phyllis Rankin has just returned here to get a divorce from her husband. While in London she was the object of very flattering attentions from the young Marquis of Headfort.



NE of the most interesting and peculiar developments of the day is the captivation of the British aristocracy by American actresses of the lighter order.

Incidentally it has led to a good deal of activity in the American divorce courts.

Edna May, the central attraction of "The Belle of New York," has become the pet of dukes and duchesses in London. She is seeking a divorce from her husband and will, it is said, marry Mr. Cavendish, who is a relative of the Duke of Devonshire.

Mabel Power, another ornament of the same theatrical company, is the defendant in a divorce suit brought by her husband, Charles E. Loeb. She possesses a devoted admirer in Lord Crichton, eldest son of the Earl of Erne. He, too, it is reported, has matrimonial intentions.

A third American actress who disturbed the bosom of the British aristocracy is Miss Phyllis Rankin. She has returned to this country to conduct a divorce suit against her husband, which she has won. Her high-born British victim was the Marquis of Headfort. Miss Phyllis is reticent upon this point, but we are likely to be enlightened before long.

It is an impressive fact that London is fascinated by the American actress. Once the Gaiety girl came to this country with her blond hair and her British accent and carried everything before her. Now the American actress goes to London and achieves there a triumph such as her English sister never dreamed of. She need not disguise her American accent, for it is considered a charming accomplishment. Wonderful to relate, her conquests are not confined to the men of fashionable society but extend to the women also.

Most of these American actresses have been playing in "The Belle of New York," which has been running at the Shaftesbury Theatre in London, and has enjoyed a popularity never exceeded by any production of its kind. Edna May, as the Salvation Army Girl, is the bright particular star of it. Mabel Power is another favorite, and so was Phyllis Rankin until recently.

The Prince of Wales has seen "The Belle of New York" and expresses himself as delighted by it, particularly by the personal appearance of the girls engaged in it. The girls sent him a letter of congratulation on his birthday, to which he replied by a telegram signed "Albert Edward." This was a great distinction, for the most dignified societies sending birthday congratulations usually receive only a letter signed by the Prince's private secretary, thanking them for their good wishes.

The latest piece of news about the New York girls concerns Mabel Power. London was shocked the other day to hear that her husband was seeking a divorce in New York. London did not know that she had a husband, and to hear that alone was shocking. London supposed that the cheerful and careless young beauty was unattached to any one except to Lord Crichton.

This young nobleman is the heir of the Earl of Erne, an Irish peer. Lord Crichton is twenty-seven years old, and is a lieutenant and adjutant in the Royal Horse Guards. This regiment is the second in rank in the British army, the first being the Life Guards. The officers and men of

the Horse Guards wear blue coats, shining cuirasses and other splendid accoutrements. Lord Crichton is a big, good-looking young man, a beau subreux, a leader of society, a steeplechaser and a four-in-hand whip. The Prince of Wales likes him. He would be considered a great matrimonial catch in England. At one time it was reported that he was a suitor for Miss May Goelet's hand.

He has displayed his devotion to Miss Power very publicly. They have been seen together at the Hotel Cecil and other fashionable restaurants, at the races and other places where people amuse themselves. Indeed, Lord Crichton was so greatly attracted to Miss Power that he proposed to become a member of "The Belle of New York" Company in order to be always near her. He addressed the following letter to the manager of the Shaftesbury Theatre:

"Dear Sir—I desire to offer you my services in the part of the policeman in 'The Belle of New York,' which I now understand to be vacant. I shall be pleased to take this part without compensation, and you will do me a great personal favor by assigning it to me, which I shall be happy to repay by any means in my power. 'I am six feet high, and think that my experience as an army officer fits me to a certain extent for this part. Yours faithfully, CRICHTON.'"

The part in question was that of the policeman in the Pell street scene. For some reason Lord Crichton's offer was not accepted. Perhaps the army authorities intervened and represented that it would not be appropriate for the adjutant of the Horse Guards to play the policeman in a burlesque every evening.

Mabel Power appears in the piece as one of the chorus of six pretty bridesmaids who surround Edna May on the stage. She also sings some songs illustrating odd local phases of New York life, which appear very novel and instructive to the British. All of these six bridesmaids, by the way, are graduates of Oberlin College, Ohio.

Miss Angela Anderson, of New York, has made a very successful debut in Paris as a pianiste. The niece of Mrs. Walden Pell, she had hitherto been known only as a society butterfly. She is a protegee of Paderewski, and it was at his suggestion that she first took seriously to the piano. Though Paderewski does not take pupils, nevertheless he directed Miss Anderson in her studies. It is not an exaggeration to say that she had to hire a wagon to carry home all the flowers presented to her at her late concert. Paderewski writes to her regularly, giving her advice and encourage-

ment. His recent marriage has not interrupted their correspondence.

This makes four more jewels in the coronet of the distinction won by American women abroad. American girls first carried their conquest into Europe by marrying some of the most available titles and the young men appertaining thereto. Chief of these was Consuelo, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt, who married the Duke of Marlborough. Then Miss Anna Gould took her place in the highest social circles of Paris by marrying the Count de Castellane.

Sybil Sanderson, the American prima donna, sang her way to an empire of hearts. La Lole Fuller, an American, danced her way into the same domain. And now these four gifted young Americans have completed the conquest.

tion there of her wonderful dance. Miss Fanchon Thompson, over whom Mr. Adams, of Chicago, holds a financial threat, filled the new Opera Comique during the past season. Her Carmen is much talked of, and it is now said that Mr. Adams regrets he did not come to Paris and attach the receipts for his claim against the young Chicago woman. Frenchmen are amazed that Paderewski can send artists to the "City of Light." They do not mind so much when a girl from New York or even from San Francisco wins laurels in the world of art, but to think of a rushing, panting city, which in their minds is associated with pork and charcuterie, furnishing a clever singer, is to them preposterous. Miss Thompson attributes her success to a good voice, American pluck, hard work, and a strong sympathetic physique.

She declares that success in her chosen calling compels one to lead the austere life of a nun, and that she has had no adventitious aids like Sybil Sanderson. Miss Thompson is a college graduate, and is well known socially in Chicago.

Miss Leonora Jackson, the second of this successful quartet, was born in Boston, lived for a brief period in Chicago, and was brought up in San Francisco. Though scarcely out of her teens she has won many brilliant successes as a violinist. She was recalled five times at the famous Colonne concerts. When the King of Sweden was in Paris recently Miss Jackson played for him, and he paid her such a compliment before the public as is rarely accorded to artists by royalty. Miss Jackson has many powerful patrons, among whom are General Horace Porter, Ambassador to France, and the George Vanderbilts. Miss Clara Betz, who at this moment is winning applause at the Folies de Marigny, is a native of New York. Her poses are said to be the purest and the most classical ever seen in Paris. She is very young, only twenty-three, though her hair is gray, having turned so in a single night.

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The third person in the triumvirate of American beauties who fascinated the youthful aristocracy of England is Miss Phyllis Rankin. She played the part of Elfrida in "The Belle of New York," and charmed alike by her French accent and the manner in which she flicked her skirts up and down.

The young Marquis of Headfort was her most devoted admirer in London, but she has left him over there. Perhaps she preferred to be a free American citizen rather than a peeress of England. The Marquis bears an Irish title, is only twenty-one years old and is engaged in scattering his patrimony more rapidly than any man with the same opportunities in London.

Miss Rankin returned to this country recently and obtained a divorce from her husband, an actor named Gibbs.

Without doubt the Anglo-American alliance will be further cemented before long by the addition of a bevy of American actresses to the peerage.

FOUR AMERICAN GIRLS WHO HAVE—1899—WON THE APPLAUSE OF PARIS.



CLARA BETZ

FANCHON THOMPSON

ANGELA ANDERSON

LEONORA JACKSON

THE FOUR GIFTED AMERICANS WHO HAVE CAPTIVATED CRITICAL PARIS AUDIENCES.

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